

City Connection

Article 75

Another Step in the Direction of Transparent Government

If you're reading this article chances are you're familiar with the headlines that appear in the Kerrville Daily Times: "City Council moves in ???? direction", "???? was approved by the Kerrville City Council", etc. Have you ever wondered what goes on at those meetings? What are all the decisions that your City Council has to make?

Last year, the City Council created a project that would add greater transparency within the city government by digitally recording and broadcasting certain public meetings for the public. Given this direction by Council, City staff solicited proposals for digital recording equipment that would not only update our audio recording capabilities, but would also add video equipment and control mechanisms to broadcast meetings live as well as digitally record those meetings for re-broadcasting later. After reviewing the various submitted proposals, we were able to find a great solution that was within budget and would meet today's needs as well as those of the future.

With the help of Time Warner Cable and KISD, we plan to broadcast "LIVE" all City Council, Economic Improvement Commission (EIC), and Planning & Zoning (P&Z) meetings over local Channel 2. The live broadcasts will occur in accordance with the meeting schedules below:

- City Council – Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 pm
- Planning & Zoning Commission – Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 4:30 pm
- Economic Improvement Commission – Every 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 4:00 pm

With the busy schedules of today, it's often difficult to be available at these times to attend these meetings or to watch the "LIVE" broadcast. As an added convenience, we will re-broadcast each meeting at different times throughout the week. Our goal is to provide as many opportunities as possible for the community to stay current with what is going on in the city. Here is our current re-broadcast schedule:

- City Council – Thursday following each regular City Council meeting beginning at 7:00 am and the next Tuesday following each meeting beginning at 9:00 pm
- Planning and Zoning Commission – Wednesday following each meeting beginning at 9:00 pm
- Economic Improvement Commission – The next Monday following each meeting beginning at 9:00 pm and the 1st Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 am

On April 16th at 7:00 am we will kick-off this program with the re-broadcast of the April 14th City Council meeting. Our first live broadcast is scheduled for the April 28th City Council meeting at 6:00 pm. We are extremely excited to be able to provide this service to our citizens. We hope this will improve the level of transparency in Kerrville's local government and provide an additional avenue for our citizens to get involved in the issues that affect where we live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Travis Cochrane by email at travis.cochrane@kerrvilletx.gov or by phone at 830-792-8390.